



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077

## COMMITTEE ON PARKS, COMMUNITY & CUSTOMER SERVICES

### Voting Members:

Kymberly Marcos Pine, Chair  
Ron Menor, Vice Chair  
Brandon J.C. Elefante  
Carol Fukunaga  
Joey Manahan

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## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

*Note:* A copy of the video of the full proceedings of this meeting may be requested by calling the City Clerk's Office at 768-5822.

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services was called to order by Committee Chair Kymberly Marcos Pine at 10:41 a.m. Voting Members Elefante, Fukunaga, Manahan, and Menor were present at the meeting.

### STAFF PRESENT

Matthew Caires, Chief of Staff to Committee Chair Pine  
Denisse Gee, Analyst, Office of Council Services  
Alden Lum, Attorney, Office of Council Services  
Marilyn Ushijima, Deputy, Department of the Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Committee  
Darcie Ching, Council Committee Aide, Office of the City Clerk

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 13, 2015 regular meeting and January 27, 2015 special meeting of the Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services were approved as circulated.

AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, MANAHAN, PINE – 4.  
NOES: None.  
EXCUSED: MENOR - 1.

FOR ACTION

1. RESOLUTION 15-9 – COMMITTEE REPORT 37

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEDICATIONS OF PARK IMPROVEMENTS. Requesting the City Administration to set forth specific requirements for dedications of park improvements constructed pursuant to conditional zoning agreements.

Administration/Others

Michele Nekota, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation  
George Atta, Director, Department of Planning and Permitting

Committee Chair Pine provided a brief background of the Resolution, stating that it was a result of past experiences where City departments would blame each other for delays in providing park improvements.

Director Atta testified in support of the Resolution.

The following individual testified:

Dave Arakawa, Land Use Research Foundation (support)

Mr. Arakawa suggested including developers, who dedicate improvements, in the process so that they understand the guidelines.

Committee Chair Pine recommended amending the Resolution to include developers in the process.

Resolution 15-9 amended to CD1 and reported out for adoption.

AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, MANAHAN, PINE – 4.  
NOES: None.  
EXCUSED: MENOR – 1.

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

CD1 to Resolution 15-9 – The CD1 (OCS2015-0092/2/11/2015 12:09 PM) makes the following amendments:

A. Amends the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to read:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City departments, including the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Permitting, Department of Design and Construction, and the Department of the Corporation Counsel, and the relevant land developer are urged to agree on required improvements at the beginning of the park improvement planning process; and “

B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive changes.

Related communication:

M-124 Sharene Saito Tam, Haseko Development, Inc. (support)

2. BILL 58 (2014) – COMMITTEE REPORT 36

RELATING TO PARKS. Establishing an Adopt-a-Park program.

The following amendment was posted on the agenda:

PROPOSED CD1 TO BILL 58 (2014) (Submitted by Councilmember Pine) – The CD1 (OCS2015-0072/2/4/2015 4:24 PM) makes the following amendments:

- A. Adds findings language to the purpose clause.
- B. Removes all existing language in Bill 58 which establishes in ordinance an Adopt-a-Park Program.
- C. Adds language requiring the establishment of rules and policies regarding the application to adopt a public park.
- D. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive changes.

Administration/Others

Michele Nekota, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Director Nekota stated her concern with Section 10-1(c) of the CD1 version that would limit the number of volunteer events per year.

The Director addressed Committee Member Elefante's query, stating that new guidelines are being established to simplify and clarify the process for adoptees.

The following individual testified:

Arvid Youngquist (comments)

Committee Chair Pine recommended amending the posted CD1 version by deleting Section 10-1(c) in order to address Director Nekota's concern and adding language to ensure that projects do not intrude on public worker's assignments.

Bill 58 (2014) amended to CD1 and reported out for second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE – 5.

NOES: None.

CD1 to Bill 58 (2014) – The CD1 (OCS2015-0091/2/12/2015 9:02 AM) makes the following amendments:

1. Adds findings language to the purpose clause.
2. Removes all existing language in Bill 58 which establishes in ordinance an Adopt-a-Park Program.
3. Adds a requirement that the Director of Parks and Recreation establishes rules and policies regarding the application to adopt a public park and adopt forms necessary to implement an Adopt-A-Park Program.

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

4. Adds a requirement that the Director of Parks and Recreation, in establishing rules and policies for the Adopt-a-Park Program:
  - a. Include a rule and/or policy for the acceptance of charitable contributions of cash or services to restore and improve a public park or portion thereof; and
  - b. In adopting such rule and/or policy, clearly identified to the public, the process by which charitable contributions of cash or services are conveyed to the City, and administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
5. Adds language prescribing that nothing in Section 10-1.\_\_\_\_, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended should be construed to abridge the rights and responsibilities of any city employee that is conveyed by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
6. Makes miscellaneous technical and non-substantive changes.

Related communications:

M-125	Lisa Cates (support)
M-126	Shannon Clancey (support)
M-127	Cedric Gates (support)
M-128	Pamela Martin (oppose)
M-129	Garry Smith (oppose)
M-130	Pam Smith (oppose)

FOR DISCUSSION

3. UPDATE ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE HONOLULU ZOO AND THE HONOLULU ZOO SOCIETY'S PROGRAM SUPPORT AND SERVICES.

Administration/Others

Roy Amemiya, Managing Director Designate  
Baird Fleming, DVM, Acting Director of the Honolulu Zoo, Department of Enterprise Services  
Ted Otaguro, Executive Director, Honolulu Zoo Society (HZS)  
Ken Kanter, Vice President, HZS

There was no public testimony.

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Committee Chair Pine acknowledged the work of the Honolulu Zoo (Zoo) employees during her recent site visit.

Managing Director Designate Amemiya briefly explained that recent situations at the Zoo began with the resignation of the fourth Zoo director in a period of five years. The Managing Director Designate stated that the Administration remains concerned and stated their commitment for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation.

Acting Director Fleming provided an overview of the Zoo's operations with the following information:

- The Zoo's focus has been on compliance with the AZA accreditation that sets a high standard for animal welfare and visitor safety.
- The AZA has had serious concerns about the Zoo for the past two five-year cycles.
- Communication with the HZS has improved and they intend on moving forward together.

The Acting Director and the Managing Director Designate addressed Committee members' queries with the following information:

- A variety of concerns, including communication issues with the HZS, have been reasons for directors leaving the Zoo.
- The Administration has started the Citywide recruitment process for the Zoo director with the intent of current Zoo employees applying.
- Four priorities for the new Zoo director are to: 1) ensure that the animals are well cared for; 2) stabilize staff; 3) achieve AZA accreditation; and 4) rebuild the relationship with the HZS.
- The turnover of Zoo directors and reports of animal escape does impact the AZA accreditation.
- The AZA accreditation is valid for five years.

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

- The AZA accreditation process includes an inspection by a team consisting of three to five members who review the institution's education program, conservation efforts, visitor experiences, governing authority, and relationship between the Zoo and the HZS.
- The AZA scoring is either pass, tabled, or does not pass. If tabled, there is a one year period to rectify with quarterly progress reports.
- The potential impact of not being accredited by the AZA include losing 90 animals that are on loan from other AZA institutions. There are also proposed State bills, requesting that only AZA institutions be allowed to house dangerous animals such as, lions, tigers, bears, alligators, and elephants that would impact the Zoo, should it not be accredited.
- The Zoo's strategic plan is revisited and updated every two years.
- In 2012, the Zoo reached a record attendance of 670,000 but currently experience a steady decline due to the restructuring of the parking lot and closed exhibits.
- The financial issues are not impacting the animals.
- The City's financial audit includes the Zoo.
- Staff vacancies are being filled but additional positions next year would help with the workload.
- The Keeper I position has been downgraded to a Keeper Trainee to allow local recruits with no prior experience to apply.
- There are three departments: 1) Mammal, which is the most labor intensive; 2) Reptile, Amphibian, and Keiki Zoo; and 3) Bird.
- The HZS is under the guidance of the Zoo Director and its focus has been on education, research, conservation, and membership.

Committee Member Manahan stated his concerns with the AZA accreditation process.

Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Representatives of the HZS provided the following overview of their role with the Zoo:

- HZS' role shifted in recent years towards education, volunteering, membership, research, and animal enrichment.
- Direct support to the Zoo increased to over \$300,000.
- Lack of constant and consistent leadership within the Zoo has contributed towards a dysfunctional relationship between the HZS and the Zoo.
- An overview of fundraising opportunities for the Zoo that are either not permitted, not in use, or is used on a limited basis, as detailed in Communication M-131.

Related communication:

M-131      Kenneth Kanter, Honolulu Zoo Society (comments)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
GLEN TAKAHASHI  
Acting City Clerk

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DATE APPROVED

March 3, 2015